

Driver Distraction and Cellphone Use

Because distracted driving is a major cause of motor vehicle fatalities in BC, ICBC has asked us to pass along some tips for safe cellphone use to help you focus entirely on driving.



The use of personal electronic devices while driving was banned in 2010. Violations will cost drivers a \$167 fine and if caught texting or emailing, three demerit points will also be added to a driver's record. Devices include hand-held cellphones, PDAs and other electronic hand-held devices such as music players and GPS navigation systems. *Here's how you can help to prevent accidents:*

- ◆ Place calls before you drive.
- ◆ Safely pull over to make or receive a call.
- ◆ Let calls go to your voicemail.
- ◆ Let passengers make or receive calls for you.
- ◆ Plan in advance to avoid distraction.

Here are some other tips to help prevent distracted driving:

- ◆ Make sure your children are comfortable and properly secured in child restraint devices so you can focus on your driving.
- ◆ Make sure your pets are safely secured in your car before you travel.
- ◆ Don't engage in emotionally charged conversations while driving.
- ◆ Check your route before departing. If unfamiliar with where you're going, pull over to a safe and legal parking spot to read a map.
- ◆ Complete your grooming before driving.
- ◆ Drive defensively. Be prepared for poor driving conditions or unsafe actions of other drivers, pedestrians or cyclists. Expect the unexpected.

Beaches Closed to Dogs in March and April

It's that time of year again when Parkville beaches are popular spots for Brant geese. Flying non-stop from Mexico, geese have only a few days to regain strength before making another non-stop flight to northern nesting grounds. Because Brant feed at the tideline, they are especially vulnerable to disturbances and for this reason, our beaches are closed to dogs in March and April, both on-leash and off-leash. As usual, dogs on-leash are welcome on the waterfront walkway in the Community Park.



City Services

Annual Wood Chipping Program

The City's annual wood chipping program runs from April 7 to April 30. Collection details are available on our website [Newsroom/Public Notices] and collection dates for all neighbourhoods will be advertised in the PQB News.

Piles should be placed on the boulevard by 8 am prior to the first day crews will be in your neighbourhood. For ease of access by crews, you must only pile small shrub branches and branches with a maximum diameter of 6 inches, stacked with the larger end of the branch or trunk facing the roadway. Please limit yourself to one pile no more than 5 feet wide by 3 feet high per residence. Do not combine piles from multiple households as it is difficult and time consuming for crews to take apart large piles. When placing the pile, do not obstruct your property's water connection box should access be required for maintenance.

Please note that materials such as pampas grass, yucca, clematis and wisteria vines should not be included. These materials, along with other compostable vegetation, garden debris, leaves and grass clippings may be taken to the Church Road Transfer Station. Please take care to ensure rocks, stumps and construction waste are not included as they may cause injury to chipper operators. Piles containing unacceptable materials will not be removed. Direct questions to 250 248-5412.

Water Main Flushing

Water main flushing continues through March 27. Between 7 am and 3:30 pm expect some discolouration of water and intermittent drops in pressure. Keep a fresh supply of drinking water in your refrigerator, check for discolouration of water before doing laundry and should water be discoloured, run an outside tap (after 3:30 pm) until water runs clear. Direct questions to 250 248-5412.

2015 Water and Sewer Rates

Council recently approved a 2% increase to water utility and parcel tax rates and a 5% increase to sanitary sewer utility and parcel tax rates for 2015 which are necessary to maintain reserves at acceptable levels. The next utility billing will be mailed at the end of March with payment due by April 30.

Englishman River Water Service Meeting

The next meeting of the ERWS management board will be held on Friday, March 13 at 8:30 am in the Forum, 100 Jensen Avenue East, Parkville. The meeting agenda is available on the City and Regional District of Nanaimo websites and at www.englishmanriverwaterservice.ca.

Lions Ventureland Playground

Once again, the Parkville Lions Club has done Parkville proud!



For the enjoyment of children and the young-at-heart, members have been busy making Ventureland Playground in the Community Park even better. Two new diggers (one wheelchair accessible), a skywheel, wasp nest, spinner and pirate ship have been installed and the helicopter is better than new. The City is grateful for the contributions by the Lions Club and appreciates the thousands of hours members volunteer to fundraise, upgrade and maintain the playground enjoyed by so many. The City will host an event to recognize the Parkville Lions Club on May 8; stay tuned for details.

City Dates

March 12	Coffee with Council
March 13	ERWS Management Board
March 16	Council Meeting
March 19	Coffee with Council
March 26	Coffee with Council
April 2	Coffee with Council
April 3 & 6	Easter - Offices Closed
April 8	Council Meeting
April 9	Coffee with Council
April 16	Coffee with Council
April 20	Council Meeting

The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month and may observe advisory committee meetings. Refer to the website for agendas, meeting highlights and minutes.

How To Reach Council

MAYOR

Marc Lefebvre 250 954-4661

COUNCILLORS

Mary Beil..... 250 927-4097
 Al Greir 250 248-1285
 Kirk Oates 250 802-2059
 Teresa Patterson 250 954-9488
 Sue Powell..... 250 954-3070
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It's Your City is published in the PQB News on the second Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or communications@parkville.ca.

